

**Section 117**

Representative Cobb-Hunter proposes the following amendment:

New

*117.coe. (GP: Pilot Workforce Development Centers of Excellence) The State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education shall establish Workforce Development Centers of Excellence as pilot programs to assist in training, employment, and apprenticeship opportunities for students in underserved communities. The centers shall create a model to assist students in engaging in experiences and activities. The Workforce Development Centers of Excellence shall enhance student engagement in the area of Mechatronics, which will provide students with training in electronics and mechanical engineering with a focus on sustainable energy resources and shall offer hands on training, mentors from industry representatives, and career placement assistance. And, the Workforce Development Centers of Excellence shall enhance the effectiveness of a seamless transition for students and establish curriculum development in order to provide students in bridge/transfer programs with the course requirements needed to transfer to a four year institution. Curriculum must diversify Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math modules by expanding to include other modules to provide value-added academic preparation. The center, in cooperation with the Department of Employment and Workforce, shall also provide assistance through client placement, case management, and identification of industries for potential employment referrals. The Centers of Excellence shall provide students who successfully complete the curriculum with an industry-recognized certification. Positions associated with the centers shall be employees of the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education.*